

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SIL-01 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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R 031225Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9245

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BELGRAKE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0449

E.9. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, XG, NO

SUBJ: GENEVA EAST-WEST CONFERENCE, ETUC, ICFTU, NTUC, LETTUCE
AND GRAPE BOYCOTT, ETC.

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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR EC

REF: (A) PARIS 1019 (B) STOCKHOLM 443

1. DURING CONVERSATION JAN 30, NORWEGIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION (LO) INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY SANDEGREN PROVIDED, OR SHOWED LABATT DOCUMENTS REVEALING, A NUMBER OF FRAGMENTARY BITS OF INFORMATION.

2. ETUC AND GENEVA EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE CGT MEMBERSHIP: WEST GERMAN DGB HAS AKSED THAT GENEVA EAST-WEST MEETING BE ADDED TO AGENDA FOR FEB 6 ETUC BOARD MEETING, WHICH SANDEGREN FOUND INTERESTING IN VIEW OF PAST INSISTENCE BY DGB AND OTHERS THAT ETUC LIMIT ITSELF STRICTLY TO WEST EUROPEAN MATTERS. (COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SANDEGREN DID NOT COMMENT FURTHER, HE OBVIOUSLY HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS DEVELOPMENT. LO CONCEIVES OF USING ETUC TO COORDINATE A SINGLE WEST EUROPEAN POSITION FOR EAST-WEST CONTACTS AND, IN TURN, OF USING THIS COORDINATION AND THUS EAST-WEST CONTACTS TO STRENGTHEN TRADE UNION UNITY IN A WEST EUROPEAN CONTEXT.) AN ITEM ALREADY ON THAT AGENDA WAS CONSIDERATION OF NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS. ASKED IF THIS MEANT CGT, SANDEGREN SAID YES, BUT WHAT WOULD BE DECIDED WOULD BE FOR ETUC PRESIDENT TO CONTINUE CONVERSATIONS. HE ADDED THAT CGT, AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED AND BEHAVING, WAS OBVIOUSLY UNACCEPTABLE FOR MEMBERSHIP. IN THIS CONNECTION, SANDGREN EXPRESSED STRONG DISSATISFACTION OVER CGT ROLE IN PORTUGAL.

3. PORTUGUESE ATTENDANCE: WEST GERMAN DGB REPRESENTATIVE MUHR SUGGESTED WAITING UNTIL THE LAST MEETING OF THE EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE ON OR ABOUT FEB 19 TO CONSIDER THE APPLICATION OF PORTUGAL'S INTERSINDICAL TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE

4. CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP: NORWAY'S LO OPPOSED AND WILL CONTINUE TO OPPOSE CREATING ANY KIND OF ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE TO FOLLOW UP GENEVA EAST-WEST CONFERENCE, THOUGH IT IS INTERESTED IN SOME PRACTICAL, SUBSTANTIVE FOLLOW-UP TO SEE WHAT RESULTS ARE OBTAINED IN IMPROVING CONFIDENTIAL

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WORK ENVIRONMENT. NOT ONLY IS A SECRETARIATE DEFINITELY OUT, SAID SANDEGREN BUT SO IS A PERMANENT COMMITTEE OF INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIES, MORE RECENTLY PROPOSED BY RUSSIANS. FOLLOW UP MEETINGS MUST BE STRICTLY AD HOC, HE ADDED, TO PREPARE MATERIAL ON RESULTS OBTAINED IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES FOR PRESENTATION TO A FUTURE CONFERENCE. ANOTHER PROPOSAL NORWEGIANS REJECT IS TO DIVIDE CONFERENCE UP INTO COMMITTEES; ONLY PLENARY

SESSIONS ARE ACCEPTABLE, HE ADDED. HUNGARIANS MADE THIS LAST PROPOSAL, SAID SANDEGREN, BUT HIS IMPRESSION DURING VISITS TO HUNGARY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS THAT THEY WERE NOT WELL INFORMED ABOUT CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS.

5. ICFTU: LO PRESIDENT ASPENGREN WILL PROBABLY ATTEND THE MARCH 7 MEETING OF THE ICFTU'S COMMITTEE FOR CONTACT WITH COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS AFTER EAST-WEST CONFERENCE.

6. NTUC AND POLLUTION: NORDIC TRADE UNIONS COUNCIL IS SENDING OUT A LETTER TO EUROPEAN TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS CALLING THEIR ATTENTION TO DANGERS OF FACTORY POLLUTION TRANSPORTATION THROUGH AIR, INCLUDING OVER NATIONAL BOUNDARIES, AND HARMFUL EFFECTS THIS HAS ON WORKERS HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT OUTSIDE THEIR WORK. LETTER CALLS ON ALL TRADE UNIONS ORGANIZATIONS TO TAKE UP FIGHT WITH THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO CONTROL SUCH ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION. (THIS IS A BURNING ISSUE FOR NORWEGIANS.)

7. NTUC AND GRAPE AND LETTUCE BOYCOTT: ANOTHER STAND TAKEN BY NTUC, ON JANUARY 9, WAS TO RESOLVE TO SEE WHAT STEPS COULD BE TAKEN TO HELP US FARM WORKERS UNION KEEP NON-UFWA GRAPES AND LETTUCE OUT OF NORDIC COUNTRIES. ARRIVAL OF AFL-CIO PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY'S CABLE DURING MEETING WAS OF GREAT HELP IN OBTAINING THE RESOLUTION. NTUC PRESIDIUM HAS SINCE RECOMMENDED THAT NORDIC LO'S APPROACH IMPORTERS TO GET THEM TO STOP IMPORTS. SWEDES, OF COURSE, ARE WORRIED ABOUT THEIR VOLVOS, WHICH MAKES THEIR SUPPORT MORE IMPRESSIVE, SAID SANDEGREN. HE WAS UNAWARE THAT NON-UNION DOCKERS HAD BEEN FOUND TO UNLOAD THE SHIP IN GOTEBO. BYRNE

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